



Paper No. 3

Andre L Marais  
Blakely Sokoloff Taylor & Zafman LLP  
12400 Wilshire Blvd  
7th Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90025

In re Application of :  
Alex Dai-Shun Poon :  
Application No.: 09/491,703 :  
Filed: January 26, 2000 :  
For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR :  
FACILITATING USER SELECTION :  
OF AN ITEM CATEGORY IN AN :  
ONLINE AUCTION :

DECISION ON PETITION TO  
MAKE SPECIAL

Mailed  
JUL 3 2000  
Director's Office  
Group 2700

This is a decision on the petition under 37 C.F.R. § 1.102, filed May 22, 2000, to make the above-identified application special.

The petition requests that the above-identified application be made special under the procedure set forth in M.P.E.P. § 708.02, item II: Infringement.

A grantable petition under 37 C.F.R. § 1.102(d), M.P.E.P. § 708.02, item II: Infringement, must be accompanied by the required fee and a statement alleging:

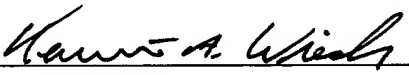
- (1) that there is an infringing device or product actually on the market or method in use;
- (2) that a rigid comparison of the alleged infringing device, product, or method with the claims of the application has been made, and that, in his or her opinion, some of the claims are unquestionably infringed; and
- (3) that he or she has made or caused to be made a careful and thorough search of the prior art or has a good knowledge of the pertinent prior art.

Further, Applicant must provide one copy of each of the references deemed most closely related to the subject matter encompassed by the claims if said references are not already of record.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The application will retain its special status throughout its entire course of prosecution the Patent and Trademark Office, including appeal, if any to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences, subject only to diligent prosecution by the applicant.

The application file will be forwarded to the examiner for expedited prosecution.

  
Kenneth A. Wieder  
Special Program Examiner  
Technology Center 2700  
Communications & Information Processing  
(703) 305-4710